Four Charged In Burning Of Bridge

Four Cobb County men have been arrested and charged with arson in connection with the fire that destroyed the historic Sope Creek Covered Bridge on Paper Mill Road on Easter Sunday, 1964.

Dets. Clifford Brown and Albert Lingerfelt identified the four as Billy Hulon Ingram, 24, of 531 North Ave., Marietta; Cicro S. Lingerfelt, 22 of Dixon Road, Marietta; Paul James Scroggins, 23, of Newton Road, Marietta; and Edmond Gibbs Scroggins, 36, of Allgood Road, Marietta.

They are being held in the Cobb County Jail. Dets. Lingerfelt and Brown said Ingram, Lingerfelt and Paul James Scroggins had also been charged with seven counts of burglary, and Edmond Scroggins with larceny and driving without a license.

Detectives said information concerning the bridge burning came to light while the four were being questioned on the other charges.

The old covered bridge was completely destroyed in the blaze that began in the pre-dawn hours of Easter Sunday, March 29, 1964. The bridge was one of two of its type in the county. The remaining bridge, on Concord Road, has continually been the target of vandals.

The Paper Mill Road bridge was originally constructed in 1895 of timbers 10 inches to 12 inches wide and two inches thick. The boards were criss-crossed across the bridge in a cantilevered style that was originated in the 1830's.

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